

RECEIVED
OCT 16
TC 17
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 8 and 11, without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 19, and add claim 20 as follows, with a marked-up copy of the amended claims being included in the Appendix attached to this reply:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite, the method comprising:

preparing at least two ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two ceramic bodies having a bonding surface, and each of the at least two ceramic bodies being formed of a calcium phosphate-based compound;

preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed, the bonding ceramic being formed of the same material as that of each ceramic body, said slurry being synthesized by merely adding a phosphoric compound to a calcium compound slurry;

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded;

and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together.

6. (Amended) The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the ceramic bodies is composed of calcium phosphate-based compounds with a Ca/P ration of 1.0 to 2.0.

7. (Amended) The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcium phosphate-based compounds include hydroxyapatite.

Sub E2
103

12. (Amended) The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bonding ceramic is composed of calcium phosphate-based compounds with a Ca/P ratio of 1.0 to 2.0.

13. (Amended) The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcium phosphate-based compounds include hydroxyapatite.

19. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite for a biocompatible material, the method comprising:

preparing at least two ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two ceramic bodies having a bonding surface;

104

preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed, said slurry containing no organic components therein for preventing elution of organic components into a human body ;

Sub E3
103

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of the at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded; and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together.

Please add claim 20, as follows:

105

20. The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the bonding ceramic is formed of the same material as that of each ceramic body.